



# Troop 337

Program Guide

BSA Troop 337, Melbourne Florida  
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## ABOUT TROOP 337

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Troop 337 is a unique Troop with high standards, and strong and focused purpose, and high expectations of both Scouts and Adults Leaders. In addition to the aims of Scouting outlined by the BSA, Troop 337 has a strong focus on the following:

- **High Adventure Outings** – We value high adventure experiences that keep Scouts interested in Scouting as they grow to appreciate the outdoors, learn and practice life-long outdoor skills, keep physically fit, and gain a sense of true accomplishment.
- **Character Development Through Mentoring Relationships** - Scouting serves boys from ages 11 to 18 as Scouts grow from boys into young men. We believe that positive role models are essential to a boy's development during this period of his life.
- **True Leadership Development** - We believe leadership is one of the most important life-long skills that a boy can learn. It is only through positive examples and hands-on experiences that boys will become good leaders. This is why the Troop puts great emphasis on allowing the boys to lead the Troop and to take on personal responsibility, while adult leaders provide background guidance and support.
- **Meaningful Community Service** - We believe that boys can obtain a true sense of purpose and happiness in life by reaching out to help others. As a Troop, our purpose is to help others whenever we can, and encourage the boys to live out "helping other people at all times" individually outside of the Scouting framework.
- **Duty to God** - We believe that one of the most important purposes of the Troop is to encourage the boys to pursue their own relationship with God through both private and public worship. This is accomplished primarily through leading by example, group prayers, and "Scouts Own Services" during campouts.

## TROOP MEETINGS

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The focus of Scouting is the outdoor program. Therefore, the primary focus of a Troop Meeting is for Scouts to plan their upcoming outdoor adventure together, and to have fun with outdoor games. All Troop Meetings will be run by the boys under the direction of the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), with the oversight and the assistance of the Scoutmaster and his assistants.

Parents should allow their sons to attend meetings without them present, in order to allow their son to grow in independence at this crucial time of his life. If a parent feels it important to attend a meeting, they are asked to coordinate this with leadership, and will be asked to sit quietly in the back of the room.



Elements of a typical Troop meeting include:

- A Troop-Wide Gathering Game
- Announcements - Scouts are required to take notes and share the information with their parents.
- Patrol Planning Meetings - To plan and organize for campouts
- Advancement Work and Skills Training
- Dues Collection (the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of Each Month)
- Scoutmaster Conferences & Boards of Review
- Scoutmaster's Moment – Thought of the Day

**Number of Meetings** - There are typically three Troop meetings per month, with no Troop Meeting following a campout (unless otherwise indicated). The Troop also avoids having meetings on Holidays where the whole family will be home. Always refer to the announcement notes, Troop Emails, and the Troop Calendar to confirm meeting dates and times.

**Location** – Most Troop Meetings will be at Faith Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall (behind the red doors). Some Troop meetings may be held at Wickham Park, or elsewhere, in which case the Scouts and their families will be notified.

**Schedule** – Troop meetings are normally on Monday nights. The official start of the Troop Meeting is 6:30pm. However, Scouts who have individual or Patrol setup duties should arrive at 6:00pm for Setup. There is a Gathering Game for the whole Troop at 6:15pm.

**Attendance Expectations** – All Scouts are required to attend all Troop Meetings (including Courts of Honor) unless they have an overriding, direct conflict. If a Scout is absolutely unable to make a Troop Meeting, he is required to inform his Patrol Leader, the Senior Patrol Leader, and the Scoutmaster prior to the meeting. This allows the scouts to plan accordingly, and maintains accountability of the attendance agreement. Scouts who miss a Troop Meeting are expected to contact their Patrol Leader to find out details, such as Troop or Patrol announcements and decisions that they may have missed.

**Why Are Scouts Required to Attend Troop Meetings?** - Troop Meeting attendance expectation leading up to the campout can be likened to a Team Sport practice before the big game, or required band practices prior to a concert. Troop 337 feels it is important for every Scout to attend Troop Meetings so that all of the boys can plan their upcoming outing together as a team, all Scouts doing their part. The Troop intentionally limits the frequency and length of the Troop meetings in order to make it easier for families to commit to them. All Troop meetings are focused, have purpose, are productive and meaningful for each and every Scout.

*Note: Although Troop Meetings and Campouts are the two types of Troop events for which attendance is required. Others such as Patrol Meetings, Service Projects, Fund Raisers, Patrol Leader Conferences, and other Troop Activities are highly encouraged, but not required.*

## BEING A SCOUT IN TROOP 337

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Troop 337 has high expectations for both Scouts and Adult Leaders. This is what makes Troop 337 stand out from the rest! The following is a list of some of those expectations:

### Being Physically Strong

Since Troop 337 is focused on high adventure, most of Troop 337's outings will be physically demanding. Events may include extended hikes, canoe treks, swims, climbs, and physical labor. Scouts as well as Adult Leaders are expected to keep themselves physically strong as the Scout Law states. This way they can safely and happily participate in all Troop activities.



### Having Good Behavior

Scouts are expected to follow the Scout Law at all times, to treat other Scouts and Adult Leaders with respect, and to be non-disruptive at all Scout meetings. If a Scout has a persistent behavioral problem corrective actions will be taken using a three strike system as outlined in the Troop By-Laws.

### Being Independent and Taking Personal Responsibility

A big part of Scouting is learning to be independent and taking personal responsibility. Scouts are expected to accomplish their Scout duties by themselves with the support of their fellow Scouts and leaders. Parents should encourage, mentor, and guide their Scouts in their duties but should never do it for them. One of the best ways for a Scout to learn is to do it himself, to make mistakes, and then to learn from them. Scouting provides a safe environment in which Scouts can learn in this way.

### Good Communication

Troop 337's primary means of communication is online with emails and the Troop Website. Scouts are expected to check for Troop, PLC, and Patrol emails at least every other day, and to respond to them as needed. If emails are lost or missed, there is an Email Archive link on the Troop Website for Troop Emails. Scouts are expected to visit the Troop Website often to look at the calendar, recent announcements and most importantly, the Campout Information Page for the upcoming campout. Scouts needing help with online access should inform the Troop Webmaster (a Scout), who will set up a training session for the Scout. Additionally, Scouts are expected to communicate to their Patrol Leader, the Senior Patrol leader and Scoutmaster if they are unable to attend any of the Campouts or weekly Troop Meetings.

### Dues

Scouts are asked to make efforts to earn their dues at home. Troop dues are \$10 per month. Scouts are to bring in their dues on the first Monday of each month, and turn them into their Patrol Leader during the Patrol Meeting part of the meeting.

## Pursuing Leadership

As a member of Troop 337, you will grow in your ability to lead others. As Scouts gain experience, they are expected to take on leadership roles at the Patrol level, and eventually at the Troop level. The ultimate test of your leadership ability will be your Eagle Service Project!

## Attendance Requirements

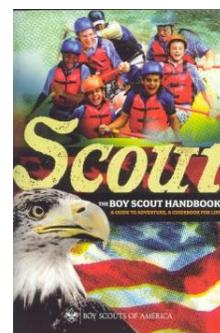
Scouts are required to attend Troop Meetings (including Courts of Honor) and the monthly campouts. Scouts are not required to, but highly encouraged to attend other Troop events such as: Service Projects, Fundraisers, Patrol Meetings, and other Special Meetings.

## BSA HANDBOOKS

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The BSA handbook is an incredibly well written, informative, and well organized book. Scouts are highly encouraged to not only use it for advancement purposes, but to read the information sections from time to time.

**When to Bring?** – Scouts should bring their BSA handbooks to every Troop meeting. If they are 1<sup>st</sup> Class rank and below, they need it for advancement work and sign-offs. If they are above 1<sup>st</sup> Class, they need it for reference, and for training others below the 1<sup>st</sup> Class Rank. BSA Handbooks should be brought on all campouts as well; however they should be protected, especially if on a canoe trek (put in a plastic bag). On some hikes, it may be suggested to leave the book at base camp, due to weight concerns.



**The “Service Hours” Log** – Scouts are to log all Scout service projects in which they have participated. This is important for the purposes of rank, and is something that will be thoroughly reviewed at the Eagle Scout Board of Review. The required signature may be obtained from the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster.

**The “Camping” Log** – Scouts are to log all Campouts in which they have participated. This is important for the purposes of rank, certain merit badges, availability to Venture Patrols, availability for the Order of the Arrow, and will serve as an important talking point at the Eagle Scout Board of Review.

**Changing Books** – Sometimes a book becomes worn, or gets wet. If a Scout’s book needs to be changed out, the Scout should first submit the book to the Advancements Chair for it to be updated in the Troop records. Then, the Rank Pages, Service Hours log, and Camping Log should be cut out and attached somewhere in the new Scout Book for future signature reference. The advancements in the new book can be checked off to indicate they are already complete.

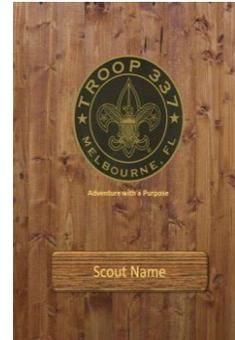
**Marking “Way Points” in case of Book Loss!** – Any time a Scout asks for a Board of Review for his next rank, he gives his Scout Book to the Advancement Chair. The Advancement Chair reviews the book, and updates the Troop Records, therefore marking a “Way Point” along the Scouts advancement trail. At this point, if a Scout loses his book, he will not lose any advancement credit he has received up to that point. If a Scout would like to turn in his book to mark a way point at any time, he may do so by turning his book into the Advancement Chair, and asking for them to mark a way point.

## TROOP NOTEBOOKS

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Part of being a good Scout, is learning to take notes, keep personal records and to be organized. When a Scout joins Troop 337, the Troop Scribe will compile a Troop Notebook and issue it to the Scout. The contents of this Troop notebook are as follows:

- Custom Cover and Back Sheet
- Uniform Inspection Sheet
- Pen & Paper
- Dividers (to help Scout organize)
- Baseball Card Sleeves (for Blue Cards and Advancement Cards)
- A copy of this Document
- Scout Agreement form in Plastic Sleeve



**When to Bring?** – The Troop notebook should be brought to every Scout meeting (Troop, Patrol Leader Council, Patrol Meeting, etc.). It should NOT, however be brought on campouts, or other activities where it may be damaged or lost.

**Storing Blue Cards and Advancement Cards** – Some Scouts choose to keep Blue Cards and Advancement Cards in their Troop notebook, while others prefer to keep them at home (in case the notebook is lost). When Scouts keep them at home, they should still have a sleeve in their notebook for Blue Cards of Merit Badges which have not yet been completed, so that they can be signed at meetings.

**Taking Notes** – The most important function of the Troop Notebook is to help the Scout keep organized week by week. Scouts are required to take notes during the announcements at every Troop meeting, and then to share these notes with their Parents as soon as they get home.

## UNIFORMS

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There are two types of Scout uniforms:

- **The Field Uniform (or Class-A)** – This is the full dress uniform which consists of the dress shirt, official scout pants (or official shorts), scout socks, and close-toed shoes. Scouts are expected to keep their dress shirts current with rank, position, and Patrol patches. For special occasions (such as Courts of Honor) Scouts should wear their Merit Badge Sashes as well as any other official BSA award medals they may have received (Eagle medal, Religious Medal, etc.).
- **The Activity Uniform (or Class-B)** – This is same as the Field Uniform but with a Troop T-Shirt instead of the dress shirt. If Scouts are wearing shorts, they should be Scout shorts.



**Which Uniforms When?** – All Scouts are required to wear uniforms at all Scout events (meetings, campouts, and activities). The default uniform for all events is always the Field Uniform (Class-A). If the official uniform for an event is to be the Activity Uniform, it will be clearly specified by leadership prior to the event. Scouts are encouraged to always wear a Troop T-Shirt underneath their Dress shirt, so that they can quickly change into the Activity uniform during an event if needed. For campouts, the Field Uniform must be worn while traveling, and during flag ceremonies. At all other times, Scouts are to wear their Activity Uniforms. For water events, if possible, Scouts should have water-ready Scout shorts, or Scout swim trunks to wear.

**About Troop T-Shirts** – Each year, Scouts will receive one Troop T-Shirt (paid for by the Troop), and have the opportunity to purchase additional T-Shirts (at \$10). The Troop will carry on-hand a limited supply of extra Troop T-Shirts available for at any time throughout the year. It is suggested that Scouts have a minimum of 2 or 3 Troop T-Shirts that they can bring on every camping trip. If they can get enough to cover the week at Summer Camp, even better! In addition to the standard Troop T-Shirt, Scouts can order Wicking Troop T-Shirts (for around \$20). Wicking shirts are excellent shirts for wearing in the water and while on canoes, as they are extremely durable, comfortable and light when wet, and dry quickly.

**Close-Toed Shoes** – BSA policy requires that Scouts wear close-toed shoes at ALL times (unless swimming in a safe area). When in canoes, Scouts should wear water shoes, or at least close toed sandals or crocks. Open-toed sandals are not allowed.

**Troop Uniform Inspections** - From time to time, the Troop will hold inspections which often are competitions with rewards. Scouts should refer to the inspection sheet in their Troop Notebook.

Bonus inspection items include:

- Knife (with Totin' Chit Card)
- Fireman Chit Card
- Compass
- Paper & Writing implement
- Whistle
- Fire Starter
- Reflective Item (for signaling)
- Troop 337 Notebook
- Scout-like shoes (leather or canvas, or earth-tone colored sneakers)

**Uniform Recycling** – Whenever Scouts outgrow uniforms, they may turn them into the Troop, which will recycle them for use by other Scouts.

## ADVANCEMENTS

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Advancements are an important part of the Scouting program. It provides a way for Scouts to grow in self-confidence, self-reliance, skills knowledge, and the ability to help others. Scouts should work at their own pace, but are encouraged to obtain First Class within the first year, and to continue on to Eagle.

“The Scoutmaster must be alert to check badge hunting as compared to badge earning.”

-- Lord Baden Powell, Founder of Scouting

### Rank Advancements

**Who Signs Off?** – All rank requirements are signed off by approved boy leaders, the Scoutmaster, or one of the Assistant Scoutmasters. Approval for boys to sign off other boys is given by the Scoutmaster or one of his assistants on a per-advancement basis. Scout parents may not sign off their son. Parents who are program leaders may sign off their own Scouts, so long as it is done at a Troop event (not at home). Siblings are not allowed to sign off their brothers.



**Where To Do Rank Requirements?** – Rank requirements may be done at any Troop event (meeting, campout, etc.). Scouts are encouraged to learn and study rank requirements at home, but must be tested and signed off at a Troop event. There are a few rank requirements, such as “keeping a record of spending”, “identifying animals in your community”, “making a first aid kit”, and the physical exercise requirements that may need to be done at home, however, they must be signed off at a Troop event.

**Do You Have to Work On Rank Advancements In a Specific Order?** – No, Scouts may work on any rank requirements in any order at any time (with the exception of the last 3 of every Rank).

**Working on Advancements Through 1<sup>st</sup> Class** – The Troop leadership will provide instruction during meetings and on campouts from time to time for the various rank requirements. However, since each Scout is at a different place advancement-wise, they should not wait around for the Troop to work on an advancement. Instead, they should use one of the following methods to get help on the advancement requirement:

- The Scout informs his Patrol leader of the need for help with an advancement requirement, who will in turn inform the Senior Patrol Leader, who will ensure either the Troop works on the requirement, or someone works directly with the Scout needing help.
- The Scout asks the Troop Guide, or Troop Instructor directly for help.
- The Scout informs the Senior Patrol Leader, Scoutmaster or one of his Assistants that he needs help.

**The Advancement Process** – The following describes the Scout rank advancement process:

1. The Scout works on Rank Achievements for his next rank.
2. The Scout requests a Scoutmaster Conference. At this conference, two of the last 3 rank requirements will be signed off.
3. The Scout sees the Advancement Chair and turns in his book, and requests a Board of Review
4. The Advancement Chair will schedule a board of review with the Scout. This will take place typically within one to two weeks.
5. The Scout attends his Board of Review, if he passes, the last requirement will be signed.

If the Scout passes the board of review, the rank badge will be issued at the Troop Meeting. The Scout should ensure that his rank patch is sewn on before the next Troop event. The Troop will recognize the Rank Advancement at the next Court of Honor, so long as the Board of Review occurred at least one week prior to the Court of Honor.

**The Eagle Rank** – The Scoutmaster and possibly an assigned Eagle Rank Advisor will work closely with Scouts working on Eagle ranks to help them through the process of executing and Eagle Project, and applying for the Eagle Rank. Although there are no minimum age requirements for a Scout to become an Eagle Scout, it is important to understand that an Eagle Project requires that the Scout must be able to completely plan, lead, and execute the Eagle Project by himself, and be able to work through the rigorous process of applying for the rank, going through the Eagle Scoutmaster’s Conference, and the extensive Eagle Board of Review with minimal or no help from parents. Typically, only older boys are developmentally ready and able to accomplish these tasks.

## Merit Badges

Scouts may work on Merit Badges at any time with approved Merit Badge Counselors, anywhere they want, so long as they follow these guidelines:



**Ways to Earn Merit Badges** – The following are ways which you may earn Merit Badges in Scouting:

1. Summer Camp – This is the most common way to earn badges. Typically 4-6 per camp.
2. Merit Badge University - Offered once a year at F.I.T. Most badges can be achieved in 1 day.
3. Troop Merit Badges - The Troop will offer Merit Badges from time to time, based on requests from Scouts.
4. Find a Counselor outside of the Troop - If you wish to take a Merit Badge Class that is not offered by the Troop, you may find your own counselor. You can either find one in the district already registered as a counselor (see [www.riversidescouting.org](http://www.riversidescouting.org)), or if you have a teacher, coach, or expert who may want to become a merit badge counselor, let us know.

**What Are “Blue Cards”** – Blue cards keep a record of a Scout’s progress for a Merit Badge from the application process all the way through completion, and then are used to keep a record of that completion. There are three parts to the Blue Card: The first is for the Troop, the Second is for the Applicant (Scout), and the third is for the Merit Badge Counselor. It is extremely important that a Scout keep his Blue Cards in a safe place, especially prior to completion because it is the only record of his work. It is suggested that Scouts file away completed Blue Cards so that if there is any discrepancy with the electronic Advancement Records, they can be used to resolve it.

**When Must Blue Cards Be Used?** – Blue cards are required for work on Merit Badges that are taken anywhere. This includes Troop 337, another Troop, Merit Badge University, Orlando Science Center, or directly with an official BSA counselor. The only exception to this rule is for Summer Camp. In this case, Blue Cards will be given to the Scouts after Summer Camp.

**The Merit Badge Process** – The following is the process which all Scouts must use when taking a Merit Badge (with the exception of Summer Camp merit badges)

1. GET A BLUE CARD - The Scout obtains a Blue Card from the Advancement Chair.
2. FILL IT OUT - The Scout fills out the Blue Card with all information possible including: Troop-337, District-Riverside, Council-Central Florida.
3. GET SCOUTMASTER’S APPROVAL - The Scout asks the Scoutmaster for a Signature of Approval prior to starting the Merit Badge.
4. ATTEND CLASS - The Scout may now begin working on the Merit Badge. The Counselor signs off achievements as achievements have been completed. When all achievements have been completed, the counselor will sign off on the Merit Badge, and will take the one third of the Blue Card for counselor records.
5. GET SCOUTMASTER’S SIGN OFF – The Scout asks the Scoutmaster for a Signature of Completion.
6. TURN IT IN – The Scout turns in his Blue Card to the Advancements Chair, who will record the completion. The Advancement Chair will keep the Unit section of the Blue Card, and will give the final Section “Applicant” to the Scout.
7. GET THE BADGE - The Merit Badge will be issued at the next Court of Honor (so long as the Merit Badge was completed at least one week prior to the Court of Honor).

*Note: It is extremely important to understand that with the exception of Summer Camp, NO Merit Badge may begin until the Scoutmaster has signed the Blue Card. Otherwise the Scout is subject to having to re-take the Merit Badge.*

**Troop Merit Badge Page** – Go to the Troop Website, and you will find a Merit Badge Page, which explains the process described above, plus links to lists of Merit Badges you may be interested in, and a list of Merit Badge Counselors available for you within our District.

## Other Recognitions

Other recognitions such as the National Outdoor Achievement Award, Keep America Beautiful, and Religious Awards may be earned by Scouts. For a list of all awards, go to the National Website [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org) and search for the “Youth Awards” page.



## LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

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Scouts are expected to pursue leadership positions through their Scout careers. The following is a brief description of the various Leadership Positions. A full description, including a job description for each position may be found on the Troop Website:

### Patrol Leader's Council (PLC) Troop Positions

Members of the PLC hold monthly PLC meetings in order to run the primary business of the Troop. Core PLC members include the following Troop Positions:

- **Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)** - The Senior Patrol Leader is elected by the Scouts to represent them as the top junior leader in the troop.
- **Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL)** - The Assistant Senior Patrol Leader is the second highest-ranking junior leader in the Troop. He is appointed by the Senior Patrol Leader with the approval of the Scoutmaster. The Assistant Senior Patrol Leader acts as the Senior Patrol Leader in the absence of the Senior Patrol Leader or when called upon. He also provides leadership to other junior leaders in the Troop.
- **Patrol Leader (PL)** - The Patrol Leader is elected by the patrol and leads the patrol.
- **Troop Quartermaster** - The Troop Quartermaster keeps track of troop equipment and assures it is in working order.
- **Troop Scribe** - The Troop Scribe keeps the troop records. He records the activities of the Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC) and keeps a record of dues, advancement, and Scout attendance at troop meetings.
- **Troop Guide** - The Troop Guide works actively with new Scouts in the New Scout Patrol. The Troop Guides introduce new Scouts to troop operations and help them feel comfortable in the troop.

### Extended PLC Troop Positions

Some PLC meetings (such as training PLC meetings and overnights) may include the following Extended PLC positions:

- **Instructor** - The Instructor teaches scouting skills.
- **Librarian** - The Librarian takes care of troop literature.
- **Historian** - The Historian keeps a historical record or scrapbook of troop activities.
- **Chaplain Aide** - The Chaplain Aide works with the Troop Chaplain to meet the religious needs of the Scouts in the troop. He also works to promote the religious emblems program.
- **Webmaster** - Works with an adult to make updates to the Troop Website and the Troop Calendar.
- **OA Troop Representative** - An Order of the Arrow Troop Representative is a youth liaison serving between the local OA lodge or chapter and his troop.
- **Bugler** - The Bugler plays the bugle at troop ceremonies.
- **Den Chief** - The Den Chief works with the Cub Scouts, Webelos Scouts, and den leaders in the Cub Scout pack.
- **Game master** - In charge of all Troop Meeting Games.
- **Medic** - In charge of First Aid on All Troop Events.
- **Weathermaster** – Communicates weather conditions leading up to and on campouts.

## Patrol Positions

The following are Patrol Positions, all appointed by the Patrol Leader:

- **Assistant Patrol Leader (APL)** - The Assistant Patrol Leader is appointed by the Patrol Leader and leads the patrol in his absence.
- **Patrol Quartermaster** - The Patrol Quartermaster is appointed by the Patrol Leader and checks out and in required equipment from the Troop Quartermaster. He also makes sure everyone in his patrol has required equipment for each event. He keeps patrol gear organized.
- **Patrol Scribe** - The Patrol Scribe is appointed by the Patrol Leader and keeps patrol records.
- **Chief Cook** - The Chief Cook is appointed by the Patrol Leader and is responsible for every aspect of Den Cooking for every campout.
- **Grubmasters** - The Grubmasters are appointed by the Chief Cook and shop for food. Duties rotate each outing.
- **Cheerleader** - The Cheerleader is appointed by the Patrol Leader and is responsible for keeping morale high in the Patrol.
- **Fire Marshal** - The Fire Marshal is responsible for the building and safe operation of the Patrol Fire

## CAMPOUTS

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Campouts are at the heart of Troop 337's Scouting Program. It is on Campouts where boys can enjoy the benefits of their three weeks of planning, and personal planning and preparations. Campouts provide a unique opportunity for boys to get away from the daily stresses of life, and enjoy God's creation, have a lot of fun with their friends, and practice leadership, independence, personal responsibility, and grow in skills knowledge. Most advancement opportunities will be offered on campouts.



**Getting Information About Campouts** – The dates for campouts are on the Troop Calendar on the Troop Website. Approximately three weeks prior to the campout, an email will go out announcing a Campout Information Page that has been posted on the Troop Website. This page will have all information needed for the Scout and his parents to prepare for the campout.

## Scouts on Campouts

**Important Scout Business for Campouts** – In order to prepare for a Campout, Scouts are to do the following:

- Scouts Read everything on the Campout Information Page for the upcoming Campout
- Scouts print out the Campout Information Sheet, Campout Agenda, Trail Maps, and any other documents on the Campout Information Page, read them, hole punch them and put them in their Troop Notebooks.
- Scouts print out the Parent Information Sheet, fill it out, and give it to their parents
- Parents sign and finish filling it out, and get the payment to their sons for the campout.
- Scouts turn in the Permission Form and Payment to the Patrol Leader at the Troop Meeting indicated on the Information Sheet. Scouts are asked to not turn it in early or late, as the Troop is prepared to process all of the forms on that particular night.

*Note: If a Scout is unable to attend the meeting at which the permission forms and payments are due, he must make arrangements to get it to the meeting or to the Patrol leader prior to the meeting.*

**Packing** – Scouts are to pack themselves for the campout using lists in their Scout Books, and lists on the Troop Website (under Scout Documents), as well as special packing requirements on the Camping Information Sheet. Parents are asked to allow their Scouts to pack themselves, and then, if a newer Scout, to check their bags before departure. Parents may always want to check for important safety items.

**Tents & Hammocks** – Scouts are encouraged to sleep in Troop tents, and to work amongst themselves and their Patrol Leaders to determine tent buddies. The Troop has tents which can fit between 2 and 4 scouts. Hammockers should find hammock buddies (coordinated with their Patrol Leaders), who will help each other to set up their hammocks near each other. Individual tents are discouraged except for on remote hiking treks, in which case the Scout may ask an adult leader if it is permissible on the particular campout.

**Medications** – All Medications (Prescriptions and otherwise) must be turned in to an Adult Leader the day of departure. All medications must be listed on the permission form, along with very specific dosage instructions (including times they must be taken). All Medications must be in their original bottles, and be marked with the Scout's name. Scouts are not permitted to bring medications of any kind (including headache medicine) without turning them in. Parents are asked to not change their son's normal medications for a campout.



**Standing Rules on Campouts** – The following are some of the most important standing rules on all campouts:

- Close Toed Foot Wear Only
- On Canoeing Treks, close toed water shoes or close toed sandals and whistles are required.  
*Note: Wal-Mart sells water shoes for a low price.*
- No Electronics or Cell Phones may be used at Campground. Cell Phones by Parent Permission only while traveling in car. By sending them with a cell phone, you are giving them permission to use during travel times.
- Scouts must bring and be responsible for their own sunscreen and bug spray.
- Scouts and their Parents need to pay attention to the Weather, or check the Weathermaster Report on the Troop Website, and to bring jackets and rain gear as needed.

**Attendance Expectations** – All Scouts are required to attend all Campouts unless they have an overriding, direct conflict. If a Scout is absolutely unable to make a Campout, he is required to inform his Patrol Leader, the Senior Patrol Leader, and the Scoutmaster prior or on the deadline date for turning in forms (typically two Mondays prior to the campout). This allows Patrols to plan accordingly, and maintains accountability of the campout attendance agreement.

**Why Are Scouts Required to Attend Campouts?** – If a Scout attends Troop Meetings but misses the campout, it is like a going to Team Sports practices and missing the Big Game, or going to all of the Band Rehearsals and missing the concert. Many Troops have a big focus on the indoor meeting aspect of Scouting, but at Troop 337, all meetings are focused on the Big Game – The Campout.

## Food on Campouts

**Grubmasters Shop for Food** - Two Grubmasters are appointed by the Chief Patrol Cook for each campout to purchase food for the Patrols. Grubmasters are rotated each campout. The following describes the Grubmasters' duties:

- Get the final menu and food purchasing monies at the Troop meeting prior to the Campout.
- Prepare for shopping by reviewing the menu, to ensure the proper recommended amounts are on the shopping list, and that the shopping list is not missing any items from the menu.
- Grubmasters with their parents make arrangements to meet prior to the food drop-off day to shop. Parents are not to shop for the Scouts, but to guide and teach them how to shop, and to let them handle as much as they are able to handle.

**Individual Food on Campouts** – Unless otherwise noted, all meals are either Patrol or Troop meals. Some backpacking campouts may include individual meals if indicated. Scouts are not permitted to bring their own food on campouts because it undermines the purposes of Patrols working together as a team on meal planning, cooking and cleanup. Patrols plan for Patrol snacks as well, so there will be no individual snacks with the following exception: A small amount of Trail Mix, one Power Bar, or a small individual amount of Jerky – all of which are for Hiking or Canoe Trek use only.

If a boy has an issue with the food he should communicate this to the Patrol during the menu planning phase. The Patrol will ensure that if the Scout doesn't like something, there is enough other food that he will have enough to eat. No Scout will go hungry; at every campout the Troop has plenty of backup food. The Scout just needs to ask. *Note: It has been proven time and time again that the Scouting experience can help boys learn to enjoy foods they are not accustomed to eating.*

If a Scout has food allergies, this should be noted on his Troop online registration when he joins. Parents should keep an eye out on Patrol Menus, and any concerns should be written on the permission form for the event.

## Patrols on Campouts

On campouts, Patrols set up camp together, cook and clean up together, break camp together, and generally hang together during campout activities. Prior to a campout, the Patrol Leader will make a Duty Roster, which includes assignments for the following duties:

- **Patrol Quartermaster** (appointed by the Patrol Leader) – Makes sure the Patrol and everyone in his patrol have the required equipment for each event. If Patrol items need to be purchased prior to the campout, the quartermaster is responsible to purchase it, and to turn in his receipt to the Troop Treasurer. On the campout, keeps Patrol gear organized and checks out and in required equipment from the Troop Quartermaster. After the Campout, the Troop Quartermaster may ask Patrol Quartermasters for help cleaning the Trailer.
- **Fire Marshal** - The Fire Marshal is responsible for the building and safe operation of the Patrol fire.
- **Cheer Master** – Makes Patrol plans for the Campfire Program. Determines Patrol Games for the campout. Keeps Patrol morale high.
- **Chief Cook** (appointed by the Patrol Leader) – Responsible for every aspect of cooking on campouts. Before campouts, coordinates the menu planning, the assignment of Grubmasters, and the assignment of meal duties for each campout. Oversees the cooking on campouts to ensure it is prepared properly.
- **Grubmasters** (appointed by the Chief Cook – rotates each campout) – Each campout will have two Grubmasters. Refer to the Camping Section about food to see important details about the Grubmaster's duties:

## Summer Camp

*“A week of camp life is worth six months of theoretical teaching in the meeting room.” – Lord Baden Powell, Founder of Scouting*

The Summer Camp experience is like none other. Scouts are able to earn many merit badges, and enjoy the experience of extended camping. All Scouts should attend Summer Camp every year if at all possible.

Troop 337 offers two Summer Camps each year: One in state, and the other out of state. Scouts may attend either one, or may attend both. New Scouts are encouraged to attend the in-state summer camp.

## FINANCES

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**Monthly Dues** – Scouts are asked to make efforts to earn their dues at home. Troop dues are \$10 per month. Scouts are to bring in their dues on the first Monday of each month, and turn them into their Patrol Leader during the Patrol Meeting part of the meeting. The purpose of this is to instill responsibility, and the concept of the value of earning, and saving money, and for contributing for a greater purpose. Dues are used for awards, meeting expenses, shirts, annual registration, charter fees, and supplemental outing expenses.



**Individual Scout Fundraisers** – Each year, Scouts are provided with the opportunity to sell take-order Popcorn and/or Scout Cards on their own. Proceeds from these sales will be put in individual Scout Accounts which the Scout may use to help pay for any Troop activity expense.

**Troop Fundraisers** – As needed, the Troop will have fundraisers such as hot dog stands, car washes, or BBQs. For Troop fundraisers, the word is “All for one and one for all”. Troop fundraisers benefit every boy in the Troop, so support is encouraged and appreciated (although not required).

**Popcorn Show & Sells** – All Scouts are asked to support at least one show & sell shift each year. These fundraisers benefit both the individual Scout as (popcorn sales) as well as the Troop (donations). Show & Sells involve Scouts manning a popcorn sales stand in front of a local retailer. Popcorn profit is split up among Scout accounts based on the number of shifts worked and typically are quite lucrative for Scouts and the Troop.

**Financial Hardships** – If any families are having a financial hardship, which is preventing attendance to any Troop events, they should talk to the Scoutmaster, Committee Chair, or Treasurer. The Troop has some discretionary funds and may very well be able to help.

## MEDICAL FORMS

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Medical forms can be found on [scouting.org](http://scouting.org) or you may find Links to them on the Troop Website.

Parts A&B – These forms (Part A - Health History, and Part B - Informed Consent) must be filled out by the Parent annually.

Part C (Medical Exam) – This form must be filled by a licensed health care provider annually before attending Summer Camp.

## PARENTS AND THE TROOP

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Parents have an important role in their son's Scouting Career; both as a support and guide for their son, as well as in support for the Troop.



### Parents Supporting the Troop

Here are some of the ways that Parents can help the Troop:

- Make Troop Meetings and Campouts a Priority - Since these events are required attendance for Scouts, parents should give them a high priority. The Troop Calendar comes out at the end of summer, please get them on your Family calendar as soon as possible, and avoid scheduling things on top of them as the year goes on.
- Attend Courts of Honor – These meetings are meant for families to support and recognize their son's achievements in the Troop, and to enjoy fellowship with other Troop families.
- Support Troop Fundraisers – For Troop Fundraisers, the word is “All for one and one for all”. Troop fundraisers benefit every boy in the Troop, so support is encouraged and appreciated (although not required).
- Support Service Projects - Selfless service to others is at the core of Scouting. Scouts are encouraged to help at service projects as much as possible (although not required).

### Parental Involvement in Troop Events

Unlike Cub Scouting which is a family program, Boy Scouting is a boy program. Most Troop meetings, activities, and events are for the Scouts and Adult Leaders to attend. When an event is for the whole family, it will be noted. Campouts as well are for Scouts and trained Leaders unless it is designated as a family campout. If a parent desires to attend a campout, they should make a request to the Scoutmaster. This method of Scouting is used to foster independence, to encourage personal responsibility, and to help the boys grow into true leaders.

### Parents Supporting Their Sons in Scouting

Parents play a crucial role in the success of their son in Scouting. They have the difficult task of finding the balance between doing too much for them and doing too little for them.

When parents step in and take over a Scouts responsibility for him, the Scout is not learning how to do it himself. Likewise, when parents fail to give encouragement and guidance to their sons, they are left without much needed support from home, and may have repeated failures from which they learn nothing.

Here are some examples of ways parents can help their sons in Scouting:

- After Troop Meetings, ask your son to sit down with you and show you the announcement notes, and schedule things on the family calendar.
- Ask your son from time-to-time to show you how he's doing on advancements. Suggest advancements that he might want to work on, or ask for help on at the next Troop meeting.
- Help your son learn to organize in a way that works for him. Help him learn to integrate with the family and Troop calendar.
- Give your son gentle reminders about checking for Troop emails, and about form deadlines.
- Be excited about and attend the Court of Honor.
- Sometimes, allow your son to make harmless mistakes that he can learn from, instead of doing it for him.

Parents may wonder why there is so much emphasis on adults stepping back, and allowing the boys do things themselves more. Empowering boys to be true responsible leaders is at the core of Scouting. It is only through this hands-on experience that the boys can learn to lead and to be personally responsible. As we step back, it encourages the boys to step up!

The leadership understands that as parents step back and let the boys engage in the program, they will have, and should have a lot of questions. We want parents to be well informed so that they can help their son navigate through his Scouting career at Troop 337, and welcome any/all question that you may have. Please don't hesitate to ask.

## FAQs

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### **What is a Scoutmaster's Conference?**

It is simply a time when the Scoutmaster (or one of his Assistants) sit down and chat. A conference can be initiated by the Scout or by the Scoutmaster. The only required Scoutmaster Conference is one with a focus on the next rank the Scout is working towards.

### **What is a Board of Review?**

A board of review is the last step in the rank advancement process. At this meeting, the Scout meets with around 4 adults (mostly Troop leaders or appointed experienced parents). The purpose of the meeting is a friendly review of the Scouts career in the Troop leading up to the rank he is working on.